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Special Operations

Pilot Program for the Collection/Disposal of Abandoned Hazardous Waste



Issue

- ◆ Abandoned/Dumped “Routine”* Hazardous Waste on and around City Property and Right-of-Ways
 - 130 Responses per Year by Emergency Response Units (average based on 5 year period)
 - Average incident takes 1.5 hours (not including travel)
 - Examples of Abandoned Materials
 - Unlabeled, irregular containers of paint, paint thinners, automotive fuels, lubricants, coolants and batteries

** Materials are stable, contained, not leaking, or not otherwise creating a hazard*



Current Procedure

San Diego Fire-Rescue

- ◆ Use of Cross-Staffed Emergency Response Units
 - First Responder Units (engine company) dispatched to confirm the nature and status of the material.
 - SDFD Hazardous Incident Response team (HIRT) Units are dispatched to identify, package and transport material for consolidation.
 - **Mira Mesa Engine 44 or Truck 44 and local engine company must be placed in out-of-service status for emergency incident response**



90-Day Pilot Program

- ◆ Use of Existing Contract Services with Ocean Blue Environmental Services, Inc. for Routine Hazardous Waste Collection
 - SDFD HAZMAT Captains would triage incident based on information provided by requesting party via Fire Communications Center (FCC)
 - If “routine call”, SDFD HAZMAT Captain contacts Ocean Blue for Pick-Up
 - **Engine 44 or Truck 44 and local engine company remain available for emergency responses**



Current Hard/Soft Costs

SDFD Costs

- ◆ Consolidation of product at Fire Station 44
 - Small quantities are transported back to FS44 (“Clamshell”)
 - 90 day Pickup by Ocean Blue Environmental, (DTSC Req.)
 - Approximately 130 incidents
 - ✓ Average annual contract expense of \$20,000
 - ✓ \$5,000 per 90-day period
 - Average SDFD out of service time per incident
 - ✓ First Responders out of service time: .5 hrs.
 - ✓ Engine 44/Truck 44 out of service time: 1.0 hrs. + travel



Pilot Program Costs

- ◆ Hazardous Waste pick-up on a case-by-case basis
 - Product consolidated at contractor's facility
 - Reduction in supplies used by SDFD

- ◆ 90-day period approximately 32 incidents
 - ✓ Average cost per Ocean Blue Response: \$600
 - ✓ 90-day Costs = \$15,000
 - ✓ + Existing \$5,000 needed for disposal of Hazardous Waste collected during HIRT responses



Follow-up/Reporting

- ◆ Monitor and evaluate new process and procedures daily
- ◆ Report outcomes at conclusion of pilot
 - Number of responses
 - ✓ Emergency
 - ✓ Routine handled by Ocean Blue
 - ✓ Number of times E44/T44 and engine company would have been out-of-service.
 - Cost
 - ✓ 90 day totals
 - ✓ Cost per incident